

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for protecting memory space in a target storage device during a write operation in a computer system, the method comprising:

creating a single data packet, including user data that is to be written in a write operation to said target storage device and key data that is used to establish authorization to store said user data, said key data being generated based upon a destination address of said write operation;

transmitting said single data packet to the target storage device;

determining whether said key data is valid; and

writing said user data into said target storage device only when said key data is valid.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

performing a boolean operation on selected bits of said user data to generate said key data.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

generating verification data from said user data at a controller of said target storage device; and

comparing said key data in said single data packet with said verification data to determine if said key data matches said verification data.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4 further comprising:

storing said user data to said target storage device if said key data matches said verification data.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) A system for conducting a protected memory write to a storage device in a single transaction within a computer system, the system comprising:

means for simultaneously delivering user data and key data to a controller of said storage device, wherein said user data is to be written to said storage device and said key data is used to establish authorization to store said user data, said key data being generated based upon a system clock setting of said computer system; and

means for determining whether said key data authorizes writing said user data to said storage device.

9. (Original) The system of claim 8 further comprising:

means for writing said user data to said storage device only when said key data authorizes writing said user data.

10. (Original) The system of claim 8 further comprising:

means, at an originating device, for calculating said key data using an algorithm before said user data and said key data is sent to said storage device.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein said algorithm calculates said key data from said user data.

12. (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein said determining means further comprises:

means for generating verification data at said storage device controller; and  
means for comparing said verification data to said key data.

13. (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein said determining means further comprises:

means for authorizing writing of said user data only where said verification data matches said key data.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A computer program product having a computer readable medium having computer program logic recorded thereon for protecting memory space in a target storage device during a write operation in a computer system, the computer program product comprising:

code for composing a single data packet including user data and key data, wherein said user data is to be written to said target storage device in a write operation and said key data is used to establish authorization to store said user data, said key data being generated based upon at least one of: a destination address of said write operation and a system clock setting of said computer system;

code for transmitting said single data packet to said target storage device; and  
code for determining whether said key data is valid.

16. (Original) The computer program product of claim 15 further comprising:  
code for writing said user data into said target storage device only when said key data is valid.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Original) The computer program product of claim 17 wherein the code for determining comprises:

code for generating verification key data from said user data at a controller of said target storage device; and

code for establishing said calculated key data as valid only if said generated verification key data matches said key data included in said single data packet.

20. (Original) The computer program product of claim 19 wherein said the code for generating verification data comprises:

code for repeating said step of calculating key data at said controller of said target storage device.